

ABSTRACT

~~"A protective device"~~

A protective device (1) for protecting an optical head (2) of a disc drive unit against
5 dirt and dust and shock when the disc drive unit is not in use comprises a carrier disc
(5) similar to a music CD disc for engaging in the disc receiving area of the disc drive
unit. A brush member (6) located on the carrier disc (5) at a position corresponding
to the inner data track (10) of a music CD disc is provided for engaging a lens (3)
and a peripheral portion (7) of a lens carrier (4) of the head (2) when the head (2) is
10 in the inactive position for protecting the lens (3) and the peripheral portion (7)
against dirt and dust. Fibres (15) of the brush member (6) are of sufficient length to
engage and embrace the lens (3) and the peripheral portion (7) of the lens carrier (4)
when the head (2) is in the inactive position. The fibres (15) are of sufficient
resilience for also protecting the head (2) against shock. The brush member (6) also
15 cleans the lens (3) as the brush member (6) passes by the lens (3) on insertion and
ejection of the carrier disc (5) in and from the disc receiving area. Further cleaning
can be achieved by activating the disc drive unit for causing the head (2) to go
through a number of data focusing cycles for urging the lens (3) into and out of the
brush member (6).

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~~Figs. 1 and 3 to accompany the abstract.~~